

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF INDIANA  
INDIANAPOLIS DIVISION**

<b>In re: BRIDGESTONE/FIRESTONE, INC.,</b>	<b>) Master File No. IP 00-9373-C-B/S</b>
<b>TIRES PRODUCTS LIABILITY LITIGATION</b>	<b>) MDL NO. 1373</b>
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<b>THIS DOCUMENT RELATES TO ALL</b>	<b>)</b>
<b>ACTIONS</b>	<b>)</b>

**ENTRY FOR JULY 3, 2002**

The parties appeared, by counsel, this date for a telephonic discovery conference, during which the following was discussed:

1. The class plaintiffs requested and were granted an extension to July 15, 2002, to submit their proposal for how the class portion of this MDL should proceed.
2. The plaintiffs requested and were granted an extension to July 15, 2002, to designate an expert witness to replace withdrawn expert Ian Jones. The defendants do not object to the extension of time, but do not waive their right to object to the replacement expert once he or she has been designated.
3. The parties agree that the depositions of witnesses Knauss, Queiser, and Giapponi will be rescheduled.
4. The plaintiffs raised the issue of three documents that have been removed from Ford's electronic document depository. Ford believes that those documents were subject to a "claw back" letter, and will discuss the issue with the plaintiffs further.
5. The parties request that the court send a letter to the proper authorities in Venezuela to aid in the issuance of passports to Venezuelan witnesses who are scheduled to travel to the United States for depositions.
6. The magistrate judge confirms that the Venezuelan plaintiffs whose cases are scheduled for settlement conferences the week of July 15<sup>th</sup> are not required to

appear at the conferences in person.

7. Ford requests and is granted until July 31, 2002, to submit expert reports from its employee-experts.
8. The defendants request that letters rogatory be sent to the proper Venezuelan authorities to aid the parties in obtaining complete police reports for subject accidents that occurred there.
9. The defendants object to the fact that the plaintiffs in the *Brzobohaty* case, IP 00-5065, have noticed three depositions of Venezuelan nationals to take place in Aruba rather than the United States. The magistrate judge determines that, inasmuch as the *Brzobohaty* case is a domestic case, regardless of the fact that the deponents are also witnesses in the *Ruiz* case, the depositions shall be taken either by videoconferencing or in Aruba.
10. The defendants' Emergency Motion to Compel Plaintiff's Independent Medical Examinations in the *Salegui* case, IP 00-5011, was discussed. The magistrate judge **grants** the defendants' motion as to the examinations of Eduardo Urdaneta scheduled for July 9, 2002. However, to avoid future disputes, the plaintiffs may respond to the *Salegui* motion in order to raise the issue of whether the defendants were obligated to request independent medical examinations prior to the fact discovery deadline applicable to the case.
11. The defendants are granted a two-day extension of time until July 11, 2002, to file their reply briefs in support of their motions to compel in certain foreign accident cases.

ENTERED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of July 2002.

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V. Sue Shields  
United States Magistrate Judge  
Southern District of Indiana

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